REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 5 and 8 being the independent claims. In summary of the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-13, 20-23 and 37-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,438,618 B1 (Lortz et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,613 (Lawson et al.). Claims 3, 6, 27 and 35 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lortz et al. in view of Lawson et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,857,190 (Brown). Claims 14-15 and 19 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lortz et al. in view of Lawson et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,435 B1 (Fernando) and claims 16-18, 24-26 and 36 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lortz et al. in view of Lawson et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,136 B1 (Pohlmann et al.).

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for the reply to Applicant's remarks in the previous response, however, reconsideration of the outstanding rejections to the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following new arguments.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to a computer system for tracking references to objects and, more particularly, to a system that encapsulates the complexities of tracking objects as they come up and go down. A method and system for tracking the state of an entity *(e. g.,* an object) on behalf of a client *(e.g.,* an application program) is provided. The states of an entity include up and down. The tracking system of the present invention receives a

request from a client to track the state of an entity. The tracking system then watches the state of the entity to detect when the entity enters the up state. When the entity enters the up state, the tracking system performs a behavior (*e.g.*, notification) that is specified by the client to be performed when the entity enters the up state. When the entity is in the up state, the tracking system monitors the state of the entity to detect when the entity enters the down state. When the entity enters the down state, the tracking system performs a behavior (*e.g.*, notification) that is specified by the client to be performed when the entity enters the down state. When the tracking system receives a request from the client for a reference to the entity, the tracking system determines the current state of the entity and either provides a reference to the entity or indicates that a reference is not being provided. Such a reference allows a client to access the behavior of the entity.

Claim 1

The previous Office Action alleges claim 1 is unpatentable over Lortz et al. in view of Lawson et al. The Office action contends that the device referred to in Lortz et al. is a software component. Without conceding the propriety of the remarks in the Office Action, if the device of Lortz et al. corresponds to the software component of claim 1, then Lortz et al. fails to describe "a property notification system for providing a property notification to the software component when a property of another software component is set." Particularly, claim 1 states "providing a property notification to the software component." The Office Action says the device of Lortz et al. is the software component, however, Lortz et al. does not describe providing a property notification to the device, but describes "allowing the client to send

property commands to change properties of the device" (emphasis added) Col. 4, lines 10-11. Applicant respectfully submits that sending property commands does not equate to providing a property notification.

Lawson et al. was cited for reasons related to distributed computing, but also fails to cure the above identified deficiencies of Lortz et al. with respect to Applicant's invention.

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP § 2143.03. Since all the limitations are not taught or suggested either by Lortz et al. or Lawson et al., taken alone or in combination with each other or any other reference of record, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 patently defines over these references. Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-4 and 40

Claims 2-4 and 40 depend directly from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus earnestly solicited.

Claims 5-7 and 41

The previous Office Action alleges claim 5 is unpatentable over Lortz et al. in view of Lawson et al. The Office action contends that the device referred to in Lortz et al. is a software component. Without conceding the propriety of the remarks in the Office Action, if the device of Lortz et al. corresponds to the software component of claim 5, then Lortz et al. fails to

describe "an event notification system for providing an event notification to the software component when another software component generates an event,." Particularly, claim 1 states "providing an *event notification* to the software component" (emphasis added) The Office Action says the device of Lortz et al. is the software component, however, Lortz et al. does not describe providing an event notification to the device, but describes "allowing the client to send *property commands* to change properties of the device" (emphasis added) Col. 4, lines 10-11. Applicant respectfully submit that sending property commands does not equate to providing an event notification.

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP § 2143.03. Since all the limitations are not taught or suggested either by Lortz et al. or Lawson et al., taken alone or in combination with each other or any other reference of record, Applicant respectfully submits claim 5 patently defines over these references. Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus earnestly solicited.

Claims 6-7 and 41 depend directly from claim 5 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6-7 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus earnestly solicited.

Claims 8-39 and 42

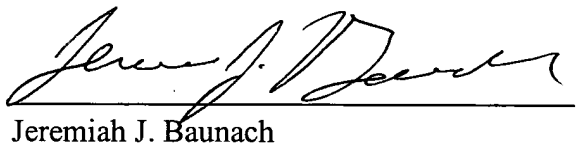
With respect to the language of claim 8 "providing a property notification to the software component when a property of at least one of the software component and another

software component is set," the Office Action cites the same reasons for rejection as in claim 1. Thus, with respect to this claim language, Applicant submits claim 8 is allowable for the same reasons given above by Applicant as for claim 1. Claims 9 -39 and 42 depend from claim 8 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8-39 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present reply is responsive to each point raised by the Examiner in the Office Action and Applicant submits that Claims 1-42 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

Date: March 21, 2005



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